Massachusetts All-Payer Claims Database
Monthly Technical Assistance Group (TAG) Webinar
Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, June 12, 2012
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST

The Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (Division) convenes a monthly technical assistance group (TAG) webinar with health care payers to discuss the all-payer claims database (APCD) implementation and provide technical support to the group. The following is a summary of the meeting from Tuesday, June 12, 2012:

I. Welcome and Introduction

Kathy Hines welcomed everyone to the Massachusetts all-payer claims database (APCD) technical assistance group (TAG) webinar and thanked participants for their engagement with the Division to make the implementation of the APCD successful. K. Hines reviewed the TAG call agenda with payers.

II. APCD Administrative Updates

a. Data Release Update

- K. Hines announced that the Data Release Committee has been finalized and convened. Also, administrative bulletins updating our data release regulation (114.5 CMR 22.00) have been published and posted on the APCD website. Finally, the application to request APCD has also been posted on the website under the tab "APCD Application and Related Information."

b. Claim Versioning Update

- K. Hines reviewed the five basic steps to claim versioning. Please see the slide presentation for more information.

c. Submission Guideline Updates

- K. Hines announced that some changes will be made to the submission guidelines in an upcoming administrative bulletin and indicated that this will be published soon.

d. TAG meeting summary notes from previous months available on the APCD website

- The Division is committed to providing payers with the documentation and support necessary to ensure the successful implementation of the APCD. While the Division encourages full payer participation on the TAG calls, the Division recognizes that

some payers are not able to participate and therefore has made meeting summary notes available for download on the APCD website (www.mass.gov/dhcfp/apcd) under USER RESOURCES to ensure important information is available to all.

b. APCD Website Updates

- The Division's Events page lists meeting summaries and presentations from all previous TAG meetings. The User Resources page will soon contain links to the administrative bulletins and, most likely, the data request application.

II. Announcement of QA Profile Reports

a. In an effort to obtain the best possible data available, the Division has implemented a data quality assurance framework for standardization, examination, correction, and monitoring of the data.

b. The Division currently engages in multiple activities to measure and improve the quality of the data: verification reports, monthly workgroup meetings, etc.

c. Recently the Division contracted with JEN Associates, Inc. of Cambridge, MA to design, develop and implement additional quality assurance reports. Betty Harney processed to detail what reports are currently available. She described the naming conventions for the reports and their contents and then provided some examples.

III. Technical Support

a. Payer Specific Questions

QUESTION: What are we expected to do with these new quality reports.

ANSWER: Open them up and look at them. The objective is to obtain the best possible data available. Right now, carriers only need to review them and send us feedback.

QUESTION: So these new reports are in addition to existing reports?

ANSWER: Correct.

QUESTION: How do we get access to the QA profile? What kind of logon is there?

ANSWER: They are already available on the INET page. Look for the reports by using the naming conventions outlined in the presentation. If you still have questions, discuss with your liaison.

QUESTION: Will the carve-out payers, such as behavioral health or pharmacy PBMs get separate reports?

ANSWER: It depends on how their data is being reported to us. If their data is reported separately, their reports will be separate.

QUESTION: Are the changes in the upcoming submission guide administrative bulletin extensive?

ANSWER: We have tried to keep them minimal. We will notify everyone when they have been posted.

QUESTION: How will overlapping records from the carve-out entities and the primary payer be unified, since we are both required to submit the same data?

ANSWER: The data is a profile of how it is submitted to us. If the carve-outs are submitted separately from the primary payer, they will have separate reports.

IV. Additional Items and Next Steps

- The **next TAG webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10th from 2pm – 3pm EST** and subsequent webinars are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

- The Analytic Workgroup normally held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month is being combined with the Technical Workgroup for the month of June. This combined meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 26th.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 P.M.